

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:ENLAUDERDALE
APPROVED BY EUR: J. E. GOODBY
EUR/CE:WMWOESSNER
ACDA/MA/IR:NWALDROP(PHONE)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105859

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP (EHMKE, HORST), PARM, MNUC, SHUM, GW

SUBJECT:VISIT BY DR. HORST EHMKE

1. DURING HIS APRIL 16-19 WASHINGTON VISIT DR. HORST EHMKE, DEPUTY SPD FLOOR LEADER, MET WITH ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOODBY, AMBASSADOR WARNKE, AND DR. BRZEZINSKI. ALTHOUGH DR. EHMKE WAS IN WASHINGTON AT THE BEHEST OF THE SPD PARTY PRESIDUM, AT DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS DR. EHMKE CONTENTED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD CHARGED HIM WITH BRINGING A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE WERE NO HARD FEELINGS ABOUT THE ERW DECISION, THAT THE US AND FRG SHOULD FORGET THE PAST, STICK TOGETHER AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE. AT MEETINGS WITH THE ACTING SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AND IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOODBY, DR. EHMKE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FELT WE HAD THREE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS IN
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THE SECURITY AREA: (A) THE ALLIANCE SHOULD DEVELOP A COMMON, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY UNANIMOUS, POSITION ON HOW TO HANDLE ERW AT THE SSOD IN ORDER TO COUNTER A CONTINUING SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ON THE ISSUE;
(B) WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE PRESENT DECISION ON THE ERW IS MEANT TO PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH A "PAUSE

FOR REFLECTION" (DENKPAUSE) TO ALLOW THEM TO CONSIDER HOW TO RESPOND, I.E. EITHER BY TANK WITHDRAWALS OR BY RESTRAINT IN SS-20 DEPLOYMENT; (C) THE US AND THE ALLIANCE SHOULD DO MUCH MORE TO PREPARE THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESURGENCE IN ARMS PRODUCTION IF SALT DOES NOT WORK OUT.

2. IN A DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR WARNKE, EHMKE RAISED VARIOUS POINTS DEALING WITH SALT II AND THE PROSPECTS FOR SALT III.

3. DURING THE MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOODBY, EHMKE AMPLIFIED THE NEED SUCCESSFULLY TO CONCLUDE A SALT II AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE A RETURN TO THE COLD WAR FOR WHICH HE THOUGHT THE US WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM. IN THE AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND AFRICAN POLICY, EHMKE SAID THAT HE HOPED THE US WOULD BALANCE LONG-RANGE GOALS AGAINST THE POSSIBILITIES FOR SHORT-TERM OR MID-TERM SUCCESSES.

4. ALL OF EHMKE'S WASHINGTON APPOINTMENTS WERE COORDINATED BY THE FRG EMBASSY HERE. WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PANAMA CANAL DEBATE DURING THE PERIOD OF EHMKE'S VISIT, HE DID GET TO MEET MOST OF THE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE REQUESTED INTERVIEWS. HE ALSO

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HELD A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THE FRG WASHINGTON-BASED MEDIA. AN FRG EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD US LATER THAT EHMKE HAD BEEN EXTREMELY SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS VISIT. WE SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY FEEDBACK EMBASSY BONN MAY RECEIVE.

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